

Whig State Convention at Utica To-Day.

GEN. TAYLOR'S LAST LETTER (of which we have advised) appears in our columns today. It is well enough as far as it goes, but we hardly need to say that it is not a masterpiece. There have been several recent failures about it, for not perceiving which we could not account for, not perceiving that his letter is not a masterpiece, but that it is a failure, though we think the first letter he ever wrote respecting the Presidency decidedly the best. This one is quite like it, only thrice its length. Complaint from a Presidential candidate that his adversaries pervert and garble his letters is preposterous. He should expect this, and write accordingly and very clearly, taking good care to let it be written by him, and not by a ghost. Gen. Taylor's letter could not have been better; he will probably be elected yet, if he stops writing by the 1st of October. There are a good many waiting to make up their minds whether to vote for him or not after they shall have had all possible light on the subject. If he writes on, the election will pass before they will have done cogitating. He must give them time to sum up and adjudge.

It is but fair to say that we receive this letter by Telegraph, for a long distance, somewhat condensed at the outset, and probably marred elsewhere in the transmission. We shall publish the whole when we shall have received a correct copy by mail.

Hammond's Life of Wright.

Biography is to the mass of mankind the most instructive department of Literature. Properly presented, it eminently combines interest with instruction, entertainment with grave admonition. "The proper study of mankind is Man," his nature, qualities, frailties and aspirations. History is the monitor of States and Statesmen; Biography that of individuals in the common walks of life. To know how one man has nobly lived, or where he is ignominiously failed, though in a different sphere from ours, is to know how and wherein our own lives may be tried, and what will be the path of duty. The life of any one man, written with the pen of Omiscience, would be more instructive than any existing library.

Judge Hammond has given the public a Life of Silas Wright, substantially in continuation of his Political History of New-York. It is a large and fair volume, of course embodying the more notable incidents in Mr. Wright's life and exhibiting in a strong light most of the leading points in his character. These were already pretty generally and correctly known. That Mr. Wright was a man of decided ability and still greater plausibility of race, of equal quantity of temper, remarkable amenity of manners, and thoroughly republican spirit and daily habits—ingenious to the verge of subtlety, and devoted above all things to his party, its "causes" and academy—these, we presume, are characteristics very generally understood and admitted. Ever courteous to adversaries, faithful to friends, Mr. Wright emphatically enjoyed the respect of his opponents and the admiration of his compatriots. It did not need an octavo of seven hundred pages to exhibit him as possessing these qualities and secure him his proper place in the public estimation.

But Biography, to be worth anything, must be thoroughly honest. It must not varnish and gloss, but faithfully exhibit its subject in the full sunlight of inexorable truth. It is not essential to the value of the work that the subject be sternly upright. It is necessary that the biographer be so. Gov. Wright was worthy of a biography. Judge Hammond lacks some qualities essential to a biographer.

Let us be specific: Mr. Wright came into public life in 1824—a year memorable in the politics of New York and the Union—as a Senator from the North-Eastern portion of our State. He was elected by the all but unanimous vote of his own County (St. Lawrence), which gave him 1,419 votes to 20 for Allen R. Moore, his competitor. Mr. Wright was distinguished as a "Bucktail"; Mr. Moore as a "Clintonian"; St. Lawrence County was divided in politics, but rather inclining to the Clintonians; and the Clintonians were openly, notoriously, and scarcely a known exception, in favor of the passage of an Electoral Law, which should give the choice of Presidential Electors to the People, taking it from the State Legislature. Mr. Wright, knowing all this, elected in full view of it, elected with at least an understanding that he concurred in the general sentiment, and that he would vote and use every proper exertion to give effect to the popular will, went into the Legislature and there united in defeating the Electoral Law and retaining in the hands of the Legislature the power of choosing the Presidential Electors. But he did not stop here. He voted to remove Dr. Witt Clinton from the Canal, and to substitute a purely partisan purpose, although Gov. Clinton's personal qualifications for and services in that office were undoubted, and although Mr. W. perfectly well knew that if the people of St. Lawrence could have foreseen or suspected this vote, they would never have enabled him to give it. He conspired in the same spirit to defeat the choice of a United States Senator in a manner which seems to us morally nothing short of perjury. The law on the subject is express: "The two Houses on a specified day shall proceed to nominate a Senator," the House did so, and nominated Ambrose Spencer. But the law says further that in case the nominations of the two Houses do not agree, the Senators and Assemblymen shall meet in Joint Ballot and thus elect a Senator. Now it was notorious that an honest compliance with this requirement would result in the election of Judge Spencer, and this Mr. Wright and his confederates were fully resolved to defeat, though Mr. Spencer was the candidate of the party which had just carried the State by 16,000 majority. And they did defeat him—the twenty Crawford Senators, holding over from former elections in defiance of the popular will, did—by so scattering their votes on fifteen different persons, and thus preventing any nomination by the Senate, and so skilfully the Joint Ballot proceeding by law. All this is pretty fairly stated by Judge Hammond, who proceeds to moralize as follows:

"Every part of this transaction is in our judgment entirely without justification, and it furnishes another instance where the devotion of Mr. Wright to his party, and his rigid adherence to the rule of regulating his conduct on questions of party character, by the determination of the majority of his political friends, led him into error."

—How did Judge Hammond learn that this question was one of a purely party character? He has himself stated that the record made of its proceedings by the Senate was false—stating that "the Senate proceeded openly to nominate" a U. S. Senator, when in fact it refused to nominate. If deliberate falsehood and moral perjury are to be glossed over as relative to questions of a purely party character, and the perpetrator held up to admiration as "this great and good man," reiterated with every variety of superlative laudation, how shall our ambitious youth be warned to choose the straight and narrow path of rectitude when it leads through present disaster and humiliation?

Judge Hammond suggests and amplifies the considerations which induced Mr. Wright to vote wrong on the three questions above alluded to. Here is the gist of the whole:

"Mr. Wright honestly and sincerely believed, whether erroneously or justly is not now a subject of debate, that the democracy of the Democratic party in this State would best secure the liberties and promote the prosperity of the People. Hence he regarded as a dereliction of duty any course to support the conduct of the majority of his political friends, led him into error."

Of course, if the party leaders had deemed the assassination of Gov. Clinton, or any other opponent, essential to maintain the Democratic ascendancy, he must, on the principle here laid down, have concurred in the project, and even become

Special Correspondence of The Tribune. Utica, Wednesday, Sept. 13—10 P. M. A great portion of the Delegates to the Whig State Convention, which meets to-morrow, have already assembled. The best spirit prevails. HAMILTON FISH of New-York, will probably be nominated for Governor, and GEO. W. PATTERSON of Chautauque, for Lieutenant-Governor. WILLIAM H. SEWARD with ANDREW L. JORDAN or JOSEPH SPENCER, will most likely be the Electors at large. Gov. YOUNG will have 30 or 40 votes for reelection.

LEWIS COMES of Kentucky, will speak here to-morrow.

Barnburners' State Convention.

Utica, Wednesday, Sept. 13—9 P. M. The Free Soil Democracy have been joined by the Liberty party, whose Convention also assembled here to-day. It has passed resolutions burying past recollections, praising Van Buren's stand and Hale's magnanimity. MARK H. SIBNEY and other prominent Whigs have been spoken of as Free-Soil candidates for Governor. ADDISON GARDNER peremptorily declines the nomination.—The city is thoroughly crowded.

P. S.—The Barnburners' Convention has just taken an informal ballot for Governor. Result:

JOHN A. DIX of Oswego had 46
FREDERICK KING, St. Lawrence 23
JAMES S. WADSWORTH, Livingston 12
WILLIAM C. CHAIN, Herkimer 5
Wm. J. S. John Taylor 1; Samuel Young 1; H. Meyer 3; Butler 2; Greeley 2; Gardner 1.
[Dix will almost certainly be nominated, as Preston King declines.]

Free Soil Convention.

Utica, Wednesday, Sept. 13. The Free Soil Convention has finally organized by the choice of Gen. ALLEN McDONALD of Queens Co. as President, and one Vice-President from each Judicial Election District, as follows:

Geo. H. FURBER, N. Y. City; C. O. SHEPHERD, Genesee; S. H. GARDNER, Suffolk Co.; T. B. RIDGER, Albany Co.; A. H. BULL, ——— BARLOW, West Madison Co.; R. B. WINNER, ——— D. W. LAWRENCE, Onondaga.

The following gentlemen were chosen Secretaries:

DEAN DUNSTON, G. A. GRANT, Kings Co.; A. WICKLER, Rochester; J. WADSWORTH, Erie Co.

Massachusetts Whig State Convention.

Worcester, Mass. Wednesday, Sept. 13. The Whig Convention of this State was called to order at 11 o'clock.

Hon. DANIEL P. KING, of Danvers, was chosen President.

The Convention proceeded to appoint, in the usual form, thirteen Vice-Presidents and four Secretaries.

The Hon. GEORGE N. BRIGGS was nominated as a candidate for reelection for Governor, by acclamation, and the Hon. JOHN REED for Lieutenant Governor. For Electors at large, the Convention nominated the Hon. LEVI LINCOLN, of Worcester, and EDWARD DWIGHT, of Boston. District No. 1, ALBERT FERRIS, of Boston.

There were about 1,200 Delegates present, being legions of outsiders. The Hon. RUFUS CHOATE and the Hon. R. C. WINSTROP were both present, and the best spirit prevailed.

Cass State Convention of Connecticut—Hartford Meeting.

Hartford, Wednesday, Sept. 13. The Cass State Convention assembled in this city to-day. The attendance was unusually large. Nearly every town in the State was represented.

The following gentlemen were nominated for Electors of President and Vice-President:

CHARLES E. CLEVELAND, THOMAS H. FRYMONT, LOREN P. WALSH, CHARLES A. INDERBELL, STEPHEN FITCH, CHARLES B. FIDELL.

The annual meeting of the Hartford and New-Haven Railroad Company took place to-day. The old Board was re-elected. The increase of receipts for the year amounts to \$76,000. A semi-annual dividend of 5 per cent. was declared.

Meeting of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Boston, Wednesday, Sept. 13. At a meeting of the American Board to-day, Rev. Mr. Treat made a special report in relation to Slavery among the Cherokee and Choctaw Indians, and in reference to the Missions to the said nations.

It appears that the Cherokees own 700 Slaves, and the Choctaws 2,000.

The Missionaries of these nations have written letters to the Board defending their course of neutrality in relation to Slavery. These letters were answered by members of the Board in attendance at the Missionary Rooms, dissenting from the principles stated in the letters of the Missionaries.

They regarded Slavery as a great evil. They admitted that there was a distinction between Slavery and Slaveholding. The first was always a sin, while in some cases, perhaps, the latter was not. If the time had not come to hold up the evils of Slavery, when will it come? Slavery lay directly across the Missionary path, and it was their duty to remove it. The latter was not a sin, but a necessary evil, and it was their duty to remove it. The latter was not a sin, but a necessary evil, and it was their duty to remove it.

Death of Col. Mackenzie.

Correspondence of The Tribune. SING SING, Sept. 13, 1848. ALEXANDER SLEIDEL, MACKENZIE is no more. He died at this place at 12 o'clock to-day from an affection of the heart. He was attacked while riding upon his horse in this village. He succeeded in getting his feet out of the stirrups, and immediately fell to the ground upon his head, was taken up and carried into a house by two persons who witnessed the fall, and breathed but twice afterward. Rev. Dr. Creighton was in the village at the time, and in fact the news of the death of the deceased. His remains were removed in the afternoon to his residence, about two miles below the village. Yours, &c. W. C. G.

Hon. Louis McLane—Railroad Accident.

Baltimore, Wednesday, Sept. 13. Hon. Louis McLane resigned the Presidency of the Baltimore Railroad to-day. He retires at the end of the fiscal year. It is supposed that Mr. Polk has promised him a Government appointment.

A white boy named Garvins, was killed on the Railroad, and also a negro boy.

Disaster at Sea.

Boston, Wednesday, Sept. 13. The St. John's New-Brunswick, of the 12th inst., says the bark Calder, which arrived yesterday morning, brought in the Captain and sixteen of the crew of the ship Glasgow, of Bath, Me., sinking, which ship was abandoned at sea in a sinking state on the 19th of August, in lat. 54 N. Long. 34 W. The Glasgow was bound from Liverpool to Boston with a full cargo of iron and salt, and went down shortly after the Captain and crew were taken off. They owed their preservation to being taken on board the Calder, in which vessel they were very kindly treated.

New-York pilot-boat David Mitchell, No. 3, left at 12 o'clock M. for New-York.

Mail-Kobber Arrested.

Baltimore, Wednesday, Sept. 13. Mr. Hale, agent of the Post Office Department, on Tuesday last, at Winchester, Va., arrested John D. Freston, on a charge of stealing letters from the Post Office since last June. \$2,400 was found on him, and he acknowledged having buried drafts and letters. He also had \$800 in half-burned in his possession.

Sale of Bank Stocks by the Controller.

ALBANY, Wednesday, Sept. 13. The Controller made the following sale of Bank Stocks to-day, viz:

300 shares of the Bank of Albany, at 105 & 100; 201 shares New-York State Bank, at 113 & 114; 3 shares Albany Exchange Bank, at 83; 10 shares Commercial Bank, at 105 & 108; 20 shares Albany City Bank, at 106.

The Atlantic Mutual Insurance Company received the following dispatch yesterday, dated St. Louis, Sept. 12:

The steamer Commodore was sunk to-day in standing the upper Mississippi River.

The great line-of-battle-ship Vermont is announced to be launched at the Charleston (S.C.) Navy-yard at 12 o'clock. She has 120 ports, is designed for 51 guns, and measures 324 feet in length.

Memphis, Tenn. Wednesday, Sept. 13. Gen. Taylor complains that he is charged with occupying an equivocal attitude towards various parties, and especially toward the Whigs—he says that this results from partial extracts from his letters being published as though they were positive fabrications—he says, that he did not declare his opinions while in Mexico, fearing to alienate his soldiers. When he accepted the nomination to run for the Presidency, he believed that he was accepting the general call of the people. He compliments MILLARD FILLMORE as worthy the first place on the ticket.

"The National Convention adopted me (he says) as a candidate as it found me, a decided Whig, but not an ultra one in my opinion. I would be without excuse if I went to shift the relationship which then existed. They took me with the declaration of principles I had made to the world. I would be without defense if I did anything to injure any party or individual. I have said that I would accept the nomination from the Democratic party, but in so doing would not abate one jot or tittle of my opinions previously written down. Such a nomination, as indicating no confidence of opinion on the part of those making it, should not be regarded with disfavor, and as a personal compliment to myself, it should not be expected that I would repulse them with insult. I shall not modify my views to entice them to my side. I shall not reject their aid, but I will not join any party or individual. I have said that I was not a free-soiler, nor am I, in that straightened and sectarian sense which would prevent my being the President of the whole people in case of my election. I am not a free-soiler, but I am a free man, and I will not be bound by any party or individual. I have said that I would accept the nomination from the Democratic party, but in so doing would not abate one jot or tittle of my opinions previously written down. Such a nomination, as indicating no confidence of opinion on the part of those making it, should not be regarded with disfavor, and as a personal compliment to myself, it should not be expected that I would repulse them with insult. I shall not modify my views to entice them to my side. I shall not reject their aid, but I will not join any party or individual. I have said that I was not a free-soiler, nor am I, in that straightened and sectarian sense which would prevent my being the President of the whole people in case of my election. 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